

### **REMARKS**

Initially, the Examiner has required additional drawing sheets, stating that only Figure 1 has been made of record. Applicants respectfully submit that, according to the USPTO's Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, three drawing sheets are of record, including Figures 1, 2 and 3.

The specification has been amended in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 120 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a) to include the required specific reference to the prior international application of which the instant application is a continuation. Since the instant application was filed prior to November 29, 2000, as set forth in § 1.78(a)(2)(ii)(B), the normal time limits for adding the required reference to the specification do not apply.

Claim 12 has been objected to for informalities, namely a grammatical error in lines 19-20. Claim 12 has been amended appropriately herein to correct this error.

Claims 12-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over "IEEE 1451: A standard in Support of Smart Transducer Networking," (hereinafter "IEEE 1451"). The IEEE 1451 reference is dated May 2000 (see header on page 526; see also "Notice of References Cited," page 2, Mail Date 20051130). The instant application is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/CH98/00502, which has an international filing date of November 24, 1998. Therefore, since the effective filing date of the instant application is prior to the earliest publication date of the IEEE 1451 reference, the rejection is not proper and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Appln. No. 09/610,284  
Amdt. dated June 5, 2006  
Reply to Office Action dated January 3, 2006

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same  
to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 32794US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 5, 2006